

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 28-54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 4300319 C1 by Hagen referenced in combination with the teachings of Nolken et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,576,384, Forte et al. in U.S. Patent No. 3,907,725 and Breed in U.S. Patent No. 3,164,562.

Claim 38 is focused on a method for in-situ coating a surface formed by a plurality of plasterboard sections.

As outlined in the introduction of the specification, as originally filed, the invention relates to in-situ coating a surface such as a wall or ceiling formed by plasterboard wall panels.

Plasterboard, which is referred to in some countries as wallboard, gypsum wallboard, or drywall, is widely used to provide internal walls and/or ceiling in building construction.

The plasterboard is cut to a desired size from large panels and the cut lengths are attached to fixtures such as wall bates. The joints between adjacent boards are filled and the surface of the wall is skimmed with a plaster compound by manual trowelling. This is extremely time consuming, labor intensive, and requires considerable skill. In addition, even with such skilled finishing joints, fixing points

are often clearly visible through the skin. This is a particular problem when the wall is painted as painting tends to highlight rather than hide such imperfections.

The invention addresses the need for a coating system for an erected plasterboard wall or ceiling which will eliminate or at least substantially reduce the problems with such known systems.

The liquid coating composition is applied to a plasterboard wall using an airless paint spray plant. The surface is coated with an even and consistent film which on drying, provides a “white out” surface. Analogously the liquid coating composition may also be applied to a plasterboard wall using a roller. The surface is coated with an even and consistent film which on drying provides a “white out” surface.

The coating achieves a very high quality surface finish to which gloss or matte paint may be applied directly without joint photographing or show-through of fasteners.

DE 4300319C (Hagen) address an entirely different problem to that of the present invention. In Hagen, the focus is to provide an environmentally friendly system to provide a dispersion paint whilst avoiding the need for synthetic or metal pots and to reduce the weight of the paint being transported.

There is no disclosure or suggestion of the problem of effectively coating an erected plasterboard wall or ceiling in such a way as to avoid manual trowelling with a skimming compound.

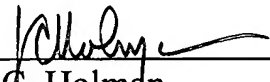
Indeed, U.S. Patent No. 3,907,725 (Forte et al.) teaches away from the invention as it describes a dry wall composition/paste which is hand applied using a broad knife 14 (figure and column 2, lines 8 to 11). This is in complete contrast to the invention as claimed which provides an on-site method of coating a surface formed by a plurality of plasterboard sections by providing a specific coating composition dispersed in water and applying the coating using either an airless spray coating technique or a roller technique. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the method of the invention in the other relied upon prior art.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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